

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 DODE-00 H-03 ACDA-19 OMB-01 AEC-11

DRC-01 /160 W

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R 021630Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2381

INFO US MISSION NATO 2207

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

USDOCOSOUTH

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5839

VIENNA FOR USDEL/MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CSCE: SWEDISH PROPOSAL ON MILITARY BUDGETS

REF: USNATO 5251

1. THERE WAS BRIEF DISCUSSION OF SWEDISH PROPOSAL ON
MILITARY BUDGETS (REFTEL) AT OCT 31 CAUCUS OF NATO REPS
ON MILITARY SECURITY SUB-COMMITTEE AND IT WAS COMMON VIEW
THAT PROPOSAL WAS UNLIKELY ACQUIRE MUCH MOMENTUM AT CSCE,
PARTICULARLY IN VIEW NEGATIVE SOVIET ATTITUDE WHICH SEEMS
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FIRM TO US HERE. IT WAS ALSO GENERAL FEELING AT CAUCUS

THAT SWEDES HAVE NO IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR MAKING ANOTHER MAJOR INTERVENTION TO PUSH THEIR PROPOSAL. IF IT DOES COME UP AGAIN, HOWEVER, IT IS EXPECTED THAT A NUMBER OF NEUTRAL AND NATO DELS WILL FAVOR IT IN ORDER TO PUT SOVIETS ON THE SPOT.

2. US DEL HAS NOT MADE ANY STATEMENT ON SWEDISH PROPOSAL AT SUB-COMMITTEE AND IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE LIMITED OURSELVES TO DRAWING OTHERS' ATTENTION TO FACT THAT US MILITARY BUDGETS HAVE LONG BEEN PRESENTED AND DEBATED WITH THE OPENNESS THAT SWEDES ARE TRYING TO PROMOTE MORE WIDELY THROUGH THEIR PROPOSAL. WE CONSIDER THAT THIS IS THE POSTURE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO STRIKE HERE AT LEAST UNTIL SUCH TIME AS PROPOSAL SHOWS SIGNS OF GETTING OFF THE GROUND. MOREOVER, THE PROPOSAL HAS SOME AMBIGUITIES WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE RESOLVED THROUGH FURTHER SUB-COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS BEFORE ONE COULD FULLY JUDGE ITS RAMIFICATIONS FOR OUR INTERESTS.

3. REGARDING POINT RAISED IN REFTTEL, WE DO NOT THINK THERE IS MUCH RISK THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL AT SOME FUTURE TIME COULD BE CONSTRUED AS IMPLYING ACCEPTANCE ALSO OF PROPOSITION THAT MEANINGFUL COMPARISONS CAN BE DRAWN BETWEEN WESTERN AND SOVIET OSTENSIBLE (I.E., ANNOUNCED) DEFENSE SPENDING. SWEDES ARE OF COURSE AWARE THAT PUBLISHED SOVIET DEFENSE EXPENDITURE FIGURES ARE INACCURATE AND MISLEADING. SWEDISH AMB ECKERBERG HAS TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT SWEDISH PROPOSAL IS DIRECTED AT THIS VERY SITUATION AND DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE MORE OPENNESS AND LESS OBFUSCATION IN MILITARY BUDGETS.
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